

## **Blood Drawing Scheduled for Employees Participating in UVM Sarcoidosis Research Study**

January 11, 2007

Details of the blood drawing related to Dr. Davis' sarcoidosis research study have been released.

Dr. Gerald Davis is a professor of medicine at the University of Vermont College of Medicine with specialties in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine. He has been researching sarcoidosis for over 30 years, and has provided the Health Department with consultation throughout their investigation of sarcoidosis among current and past occupants of the Bennington State Office Building.

Dr. Davis and colleagues at the UVM College of Medicine believe that the cluster of sarcoidosis cases among current and former building occupants presents an opportunity to learn more about environmental factors that may be related to the disease. Sarcoidosis is a disease of unknown cause, characterized by inflammation in one or more organs.

The researchers plan is to collect blood samples from employees in order to test for evidence of inflammation, reactivity to possible causes of the disease, and inherited susceptibility to develop these diseases.

The blood draw will take place on two dates:

- Thursday, February 1 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 2, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

An additional date has been established and is reserved only for staff who will not be in Bennington on the above dates:

- Thursday, February 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The blood drawing will take place at the Health Department on Main Street.

Staff participating will need to pre-register by calling the Health Department at 447-3531. There will be three nurses drawing blood at any given time. The procedure itself should take about 15 minutes.

Upon arriving at the Health Department for your appointment, you will meet with the Health Department intake worker who will register you, ask you a few questions, and review the Informed Consent form with you before you sign it.

Please consider car-pooling with office colleagues who have similar appointment times.

Employees can register for the blood draw beginning January 11. Call the Health Department at 447-3531 and tell the receptionist that you're calling to sign up for the UVM Research Study blood drawing.